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Letter dated 24 May 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter from Hoshyar Zebari, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, regarding the extension of the mandate of the Multinational Force (MNF) in Iraq, which is due to be reviewed soon (see annex).

I would appreciate it if the present letter and its annex could be circulated a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Samir Shakir M. **Sumaida'ie**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 24 May 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The mandate of the Multinational Force (MNF) in Iraq is soon due for review, as decided by the Security Council in its resolution 1546 (2004). In this respect, the Transitional Government of Iraq formally requests the Council to allow for the continuation of this mandate until the completion of the political process endorsed by the Council in the same resolution, or until Iraq can provide for its security needs on its own.

I would like to recall that this mandate was requested by Dr. Ayad Allawi, the Prime Minister of the Interim Government of Iraq, in a letter annexed to resolution 1546 (2004). In that letter, dated 5 June 2004, Dr. Allawi also requested the annual review that is about to take place.

Many of the conditions prevailing when Dr. Allawi wrote his letter still hold. As we stand now, our country continues to face an armed insurgency, which still includes foreign elements opposed to Iraq's transition to democratic rule. Despite continuing efforts to build up our security forces, these forces cannot as yet assume full responsibility for maintaining our national security and defending our borders. To complete the transitional process endorsed in resolution 1546 (2004) and build on political achievements to date, we need the MNF to continue providing its essential contributions to our security, and I would like to reiterate the Iraqi Governments request for a continuation of the MNF's mandate.

Iraq looks forward to the day when its forces are able to assume full responsibility for maintaining its national security, at which time there will be no need for the engagement of the MNF. Until then, we need the continued presence of the MNF in Iraq. I would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to the States participating in the MNF for their valued contributions.

(*Signed*) Hoshyar **Zebari**
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Transitional Government of Iraq